

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov APPLICATION NO. FILING DATE FIRST NAMED INVENTOR ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. CONFIRMATION NO. 10/695,207 10/28/2003 Anthony J. Beavers B73030C2 (015538/0000) 4516 20594 7590 03/10/2005 EXAMINER AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD, LLP P O BOX 688 ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER DALLAS, TX 75313-0688

DATE MAILED: 03/10/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Notice of Non-Responsive Amendment

The reply filed on January 4, 2005 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s):

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's RCE submission filed on January 4, 2005 has been entered.

However, Applicant's amendment filed on January 4, 2005 has not been entered and is not fully responsive to the prior Office action. Applicant cannot file an RCE to obtain continued examination on the basis of claims that are independent and distinct from the claims previously claimed and examined as a matter of right (i.e., applicant cannot switch inventions). See 37 CFR 1.145.

§ 1.145 Subsequent presentation of claims for different invention. If, after an office action on an application, the applicant presents claims directed to an invention distinct from and independent of the invention previously claimed, the applicant will be required to restrict the claims to the invention previously claimed if the amendment is entered, subject to reconsideration and review as provided in §§ 1.143 and 1.144.

Any newly submitted claims that are directed to an invention that is independent and distinct from the invention previously claimed will be withdrawn from consideration and not entered. In this application Applicant cancelled all previous claims and has filed new claims 59-78. The previous

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claims were directed towards a cheque value system. The new claims deal with a new invention involving remote terminals in which supervisors can track players including allowing a player to move from a first table game to a second. The new claims have very little to do with the cheque value system previously claimed. For these new claims to be examined, Applicant may file a regular continuation application, not an RCE. As a side note, the Examiner notes that Applicant has not mentioned where these claims are supported in the specification nor has submitted arguments why they are patentable over the references cited. Furthermore, in order to change Applicant's Attorney Docket Number, a letter should be submitted, not saying that it is to be changed in the specification, but stating that it has been changed on the Applicant Data Sheet and the office should note the change.

See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given **ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS** from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Julie K Brocketti whose telephone

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number is 571-272-4432. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on 571-272-7147. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Juli Brocketh.

Julie K Brocketti Primary Examiner Art Unit 3713